

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

June 26th, 2016

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy GOD: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of MY RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

(ISAIAH 41:10)

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

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June 26th, 2016

Schedule of Services

Sunday School	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	11:00 am
Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!
Jacob Luman - June 28th

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Beloved, rejoice in GOD's gracious and merciful will that chose to save you; the only decision that counts is HIS.

(EXODUS 33:19, JOHN 1:13, 2 TIMOTHY 1:9)

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WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?

"WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?" (ISAIAH 53:1)

What a question! Well, who are they that believe the report that CHRIST has accomplished the salvation of HIS people, the report that declares HIS victory by the flesh of HIS arm, that HE came into the world to save sinners?

Who are they that believe the message of the prophet that declares the gospel news that 'HE will save us' (ISAIAH 25:9)? His people; we believe the gospel news the angel of the LORD declared; 'HE shall save HIS people from their sins' (MATTHEW 1:21)! They are those who love the truth. Those who watch for and will love HIS appearing. Those who love the truth as it is in HIM, the LORD JESUS CHRIST! Those who love, not merely a theology of truth; but beloved a people who love CHRIST himself; the ONE whom has sovereignly and loving been revealed to them and in them; CHRIST JESUS the LORD, our only hope of glory.

What good news does this report contain? The good news of Salvation accomplished of the LORD's arm! The Gospel declares that through the *doing* and the *dying* of the LORD JESUS CHRIST we are saved. Beloved, we are saved by the strong arm of the LORD!

So perfect, so complete is our LORD's work of salvation, HE declares that HE has finished it; we are made complete through it beloved, we are "*complete in Him*" (JOHN 19:30, COLOSSIANS 2:10).

Now, although we don't see our being complete in HIM with the eye of the flesh as long as we are in this body of death, but believe it beloved, in that day, we shall see our present hidden gospel reality in CHRIST—that we shall be found presented in CHRIST JESUS, *holy and unblameable and unreproveable, indeed faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...*and why is that beloved?

Because as HE is right now at the right hand of the Father, so are we in this world (COLOSSIANS 1:22, 1 JOHN 4:17). "*HE hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before HIM in love...*" (EPHESIANS 1:4)

Beloved we are complete in CHRIST. All those who believe on HIM are not condemned but redeemed! "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in CHRIST JESUS, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!*" (ROMANS 8:1)

Sadly, this good news, this good report of CHRIST's victory is so often despised and trampled under foot, and treated with contempt (HEBREWS 10:29) that the question is asked, *Who hath believed our report?*

Well who has believed the gospel? Those whom the LORD refers to when He declares "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*" (LUKE 8:8). Those who have ears to hear...those that receive and believe the Gospel report of CHRIST, that by HIM GOD hath saved us! (2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9)

Who hath believed our report? Beloved, our LORD answers us plainly—those that hear HIS voice; "*My sheep hear my voice*", in the declaration of the Gospel, HIS sheep are made to hear HIS voice, they are made to know that it is by HIS strong arm, that they are saved. They hear and are made to know that HE is *the author and finisher of [their] faith*. Beloved, HE is the author of *all* our salvation. (HEBREWS 12:2)

WHEN GOD LOOKS UPON HIS ELECT

...NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING... (EPHESIANS 5:27)

When we look upon ourselves, we often see ourselves—the most stupid—the most ignorant—the most vile—the most unworthy—the most earthly and sensual wretches that God can permit to live! At least, that is the view we take of ourselves when we are really humbled in our own eyes. But when God looks upon HIS elect, He does not look upon them as they often look upon themselves—but as they stand in CHRIST—accepted in the beloved—without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing! HE does not see HIS people as they often see themselves—full of wounds, and bruises and putrefying sores; but clothed in the perfection, beauty, and loveliness of their Head and Husband.

PASTOR J.C. PHILPOT

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Beloved, it is not for your sake but for CHRIST's sake that GOD has forgiven you, freely by HIS grace in CHRIST.

(ROMANS 3:24, EPHESIANS 4:32, EPHESIANS 2:8)

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IF BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

...HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED (MARK 16:16)

Baptism is a ceremony, and nothing more. There is no saving efficacy in it nor is it a means through which grace is conveyed. But, that does not take away from its importance. The marriage ceremony does not cause a man and woman to love one another. They love each other before they participated in the marriage ceremony. But if they refuse to participate in the marriage ceremony, and live together without it, they say by that, that they do not love one another enough to be totally committed to one another. This shows how important the marriage ceremony is. There is no true love without it. Baptism is the same. It does not cause salvation. It speaks of a relationship that was already there before the ceremony. And that relationship was caused by what baptism depicts: Union with CHRIST. For someone to refuse Baptism is like someone who refuses the marriage covenant and ceremony. That person says by their actions, "*I do not love CHRIST enough to commit to Him.*" Love like that is not love at all! Yes, Baptism is important.

PASTOR TODD NIBERT